

# HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

## *Minutes*

July 20, 2017

### Commission Members Present:

Reverend Turner, Chair  
Shiraz Ahmed  
Bianca Chang  
Joan Hash  
Kui Zhao  
Bob Ford  
Hector Garcia, Jr.

### Commission Members Absent:

Shivani Aghera  
Peter Hwang  
Opel T. Jones, I

### Staff:

Stephanie Chapple, HRC Recording Secretary  
Melissa Goldmeier, HRC Legal Counsel

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

#### 2. PUBLIC FORUM – N/A

#### 3. HRC CASES UPDATE – LEGAL COUNSEL –

#### 4. APPROVE MINUTES

Amendment to June meeting – Add Kui to list of volunteers at Veterans' Day Fair.

#### 5. CHAIR'S REPORT –

- **Sub-Committee – 12.203.3e** – (Opel, Hector, Joan) Per Hector, no other county has any other term that eluded to “exhausting” any other options before going to the Human Rights Commission (in some counties, its' referred to as Human Relations Commission). Committee still at preliminary stage of report i.e. still researching, gathering information, fact-finding, etc. Najee Bailey, District Aide to Councilman Ball's Office indicated that currently, there is no timeline for completion of findings at this time. (hard copy of report rec'd from Joan)
- **CR-180** – Status and Next Steps – Project completion targeted for September. Commissioner Kui still working with and receiving information from HCPL. Once all agencies' submissions are received by their Commissioner point-of-contact for each respective agency, Chair Turner and HRC body will review, discuss reports, etc. Once all members approve final copy, final report will be submitted to County Council. Najee Bailey (District Aide) will confirm with Dr. Ball regarding which meeting HRC should submit report i.e. work session, public hearing, or monthly meeting.
- **HRC Vacancy** – Nominating Committee proposed to HRC body to use the same list of 6 candidates interviewed (a few months prior), and re-submit those names to the County Executive's Office for consideration. Motion was made to approve the recommendation that HRC follows the same process, and that the County Executive use/review the same list used to fill the vacancy seat formerly held by Lopez for the current open seat. All approved.

#### 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS -

- Finance & Fair Lending with Housing – (*Vacant*) –
- Legislation – *Bob/Kui* – (hard copy submitted by Kui) On the county level, (1) prefled legislation brought forth for special education staffing; and (2) if a county employee is or spouse is deceased, their benefits would continue. Other legislations on the state level regarding Human Trafficking. Kui will continue to review county, state and federal legislation, and share with entire body as it relates to human rights, etc.
- Education, Public Safety and Student Life Committee – *Reverend Turner, Opel* – No report.
- HRC Awards Committee – *Bianca, Opel, Hector* – Bianca asked Stephanie to re-circulate the nomination form to all members. Members are encouraged to consider nominating those unsung heroes, citizens, etc. who make a difference in protecting and promoting human rights in this county.
- Human Trafficking Committee – *Peter, Shiraz and Joan* – No report
- LGBTQ Committee – *Opel, Bob* – (hard copy submitted by Bob) County Executive has a LGBT Roundtable which includes the Police Chief, numerous non-profit groups, members of PFLAG and community leaders. Meetings are held monthly. An LGBT Pride Event in Howard County is being planned for next year. PFLAG will host its annual picnic on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Please see Bob for more information or visit the PFLAG website.
- Aging, Disability and Health Care Committee – *Bianca* – (hard copy report submitted) Bianca is requesting guest speaker from “The Door to Health in Howard County” organization to come speak to HRC members during the September meeting.
- HRC Goals Committee – Peter, Bianca, Rev. Turner – No report.

- Nominating Committee – Shiraz, Peter, Joan, Shivani – See Chair’s report above. 25 applications rec’d for the HRC student position. Six applicants were interviewed; 3 names were forwarded to David Lee in the County Executive’s Office for consideration.
- Student Report – No report.

7. STAFF REPORT – See written report submitted. Dr. Sands is on travel, returning late tonight. Please email her directly if you have any questions regarding the report. Hector will contact Dr. Sands regarding how FIRN can get involved with assisting HT victims.

8. NEW BUSINESS – Motion was made for HRC Legal Counsel segment of the meeting to take place after approval of Minutes on the agenda beginning in September, and until December. This recommendation was made from Vice Chair Shiraz due to the announcement of the HRC Legal Counsel’s medical condition. After discussion, vote was taken, all approved.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Harriet Tubman Day Celebration flyer was distributed. HRC agreed to participate and register for a booth (table) to distribute information, meet citizens, and be present at this historical county-wide event on 9/16. Joan is the Vice President of the Organization. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be circulated.

10. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.